Olivia Perry St. Catherine Laboure School Grade 8 Third Place

It started as a "dream" more than thirty years ago but the legacy of the man who started this "dream" needs to be carried on. This man I am speaking of is Martin Luther King Junior. He was an African American minister who led the Civil rights Movement back in and around the time of segregation. This one man's beliefs on equality of all people and the judgment of a person by the "content of their character" and not by their outward appearance. Martin Luther King Jr. acted on his beliefs and this is what altered society.

I believe every member of society has a responsibility to carry on his "dream", including me! In my day-to-day life I see people judging others on everything from the clothing they wear to the street they live on. This is certainly not what Martin Luther King stood for. I want to emulate Martin Luther King by looking on the inwardly appearance and not on the outwardly appearance of every human being. Discrimination of all sorts still exists in our world today and I want to have a hand in stopping it through my actions in daily life.

Another trait Martin Luther King exhibited in his life was his ability to turn frustration and anger into peaceful action. When he felt something was not fair or just he acted peacefully on these feelings. I could benefit and most of society could benefit from this skill. When I feel something is not just I know I can take action in a way that will not harm anyone instead of sitting around and waiting for someone else to take care of my concern. It is my actions that can change something in my life to improve it for myself and others just as Martin Luther King did. If Martin Luther King did not take

(Olivia Perry continued)

action segregation might still exist in the United States, today! So who knows what could take place as a result of my actions.

One quality Martin Luther King had that I admire him for was his ability to tolerate others even if he did not possess their same morals or beliefs. This has infinite value in my daily life and I could use this trait presently and in the future.

Martin Luther King would not have accomplished much in his life if he was not persistent and determined. In the future I will continue to persist because to succeed in anything we must continue to work hard to get over the obstacles that are placed in front of us. Martin Luther King may not have attained everything on the first try but he continued to persist to reach his goals.

Martin Luther King's actions and qualities are an example for us to live by. We are responsible to keep his strong morals and beliefs alive. In my life I am capable of emulating his example on a daily basis and I plan to!